(ii) Convert the unsold/unders patched quantity of free sale sugar into levy sugar,

(iii) Activate the enforcement/checks of the sugar mills on random basis,

(iv) Assess the possibility of facilitating imports through Tariff Rate Quota mechanism of sugar in long term, notwithstanding the extant operational scheme of raw sugar imports under Advance License Scheme.

(v) Resort to adequate additional release of free sale quota into the open market to tame prices.

(vi) Closely and constantly monitor the price of sugar in the country for taking necessary fiscal/non-fiscal measures as warranted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Shortage in foodgrain stock

606. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrain stock in 2002 was 65 million tonnes and that the availability had come down to 15 million tonnes during the last year as against 22 million tonnes required for food security;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the country is fast heading for an acute food shortage and that no country in the world is so much food surplus now to make our shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The total stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.6.2002 was 64.72 million tonnes. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool, *viz-a-viz* the buffer norms during last year was as follows:

(in million tonnes)

Date	Total Stock	Buffer Norm
1-1-2005	21.69	16.80
1-4-2005	17.97	16.20
1-7-2005	25.11	26.90
1-10-2005	15.55	16.20

The available stock was adequate for maintaining food security in the country.

(b) The decline of stocks of foodgrains has been, *inter-alia,* due to the following decisions taken by Government since March 2002 to liquidate the excess stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool:

(i) Increase in scale of allocation of foodgrains from 25 to 35 kgs per family per month for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

(ii) To fix the scale of allocation for Above Poverty Line (APL) families as 35 Kgs per family per month.

(iii) To fix the scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @ 15 Kg per head per month and make an additional allocation equal to 5% of BPL allocation to States/UTs at BPI rates.

(iv) Expansion of wage employment programmes such as Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) including Special component of SGRY and National food For Work Programme (NFFWP) has contributed to liquidation of stocks.

(v) To increase the coverage of AAY families from 1 crore to 2.5 crore in three phases w.e.f. 5-6-2003, 3-8-2004 and 12-5-2005.

Apart from the above, the other reasons for decline in stocks have been export of foodgrains which continued upto November 2004 and the lower procurement of wheat during last year.

(c) No, Sir. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.1.2006 was 1883 million tonnes as against the buffer norm of 20 million tonnes on that date. The stock of foodgrains is sufficient to meet the requirement

of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes till the next harvesting season.

Cut in PDS quota

607. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the quantity of foodgrains distributed through PDS and hiked their prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above measure would further reduce the offtake of foodgrains from the FCI godowns;

(d) whether this will make the PDS outlets unviable; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Cut in BPL quota

608. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce quantity of foodgrains allocated per household through Targeted Public Distribution System and to increase the prices of foodgrains allocated to Above Poverty Line (APL);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the status of it as on today; and

(c) the total number of households coming under TPDS and APL and the total foodgrains allocated under TPDS and APL for the last three years, TPDS-wise, APL-wise, category-wise, year-wise, and State-wise?